

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for tracking spend, comprising:  
receiving a plurality of accounts payable items,  
each accounts payable item being associated with one of a  
5 plurality of general ledger codes;  
associating more than one of the plurality of  
general ledger codes with an associated one of a  
plurality of purchasing categories;  
identifying at least one of the plurality of general  
10 ledger codes which does not include an associated one of  
the plurality of purchasing categories;  
displaying unallocated spend items associated with  
the at least one of the general ledger codes to a user;  
and  
15 receiving, from the user, information regarding a  
proper correlation of the spend items within the  
plurality of purchasing categories.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the purchasing  
20 categories comprise suppliers associated with the spend  
items, and further comprising:  
receiving, from the user, an identification of  
additional suppliers previously not identified with the  
accounts payable items; and  
25 associating each of the additional suppliers with at  
least one of the spend items.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of accounts payable items include a plurality of non-discretionary spend items, and a plurality of discretionary spend items, and further comprising:

5 associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with a respective one of the plurality of purchasing categories.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the respective  
10 purchasing category comprises a supplier associated with the discretionary spend items.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the respective  
15 purchasing category comprises a type of goods or services associated with the discretionary spend items.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the respective  
20 purchasing category corresponds to a business unit associated with the discretionary spend items.

7. The method of Claim 3, further comprising  
25 associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with a respective one of a plurality of types of goods or services.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising  
30 associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with a respective one of a plurality of types of businesses.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the purchasing categories comprise first purchasing categories, and further comprising associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with second purchasing categories.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the purchasing categories comprise first purchasing categories, and further comprising associating each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with second and third purchasing categories.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein the first purchasing categories comprise suppliers associated with the discretionary spend items, the second purchasing categories comprise types of goods or services associated with the discretionary spend items, and the third respective spend categories comprise business units associated with the discretionary spend items.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
identifying one or more general ledger codes which are likely to include one or more of a plurality of non-discretionary spend items; and  
presenting each of the plurality of accounts payable items that are associated with the one or more general ledger codes to a user for analysis.

13. Logic encoded in media for tracking spend, the logic being operable to:

receive a plurality of accounts payable items, each accounts payable item being associated with one of a plurality of general ledger codes;

associate more than one of the plurality of general ledger codes with an associated one of a plurality of purchasing categories;

identify at least one of the plurality of general ledger codes which does not include an associated one of the plurality of purchasing categories;

display unallocated spend items associated with the at least one of the general ledger codes to a user; and

receive, from the user, information regarding a proper correlation of the spend items within the plurality of purchasing categories.

14. The logic encoded in media of Claim 13, wherein the purchasing categories comprise suppliers associated with the spend items, and the logic being further operable to:

receive, from the user, an identification of additional suppliers previously not identified with the accounts payable items; and

associate each of the additional suppliers with at least one of the spend items.

15. The logic encoded in media of Claim 13, wherein the plurality of accounts payable items include a plurality of non-discretionary spend items, and a plurality of discretionary spend items, and the logic  
5 being further operable to:

associate each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with a respective one of the plurality of purchasing categories.

10 16. The logic encoded in media of Claim 15, wherein the logic is further operable to associate each of the plurality of discretionary spend items with a respective one of a plurality of types of goods or services.

15 17. The logic encoded in media of Claim 13, wherein the logic is further operable to:

identify one or more general ledger codes which are likely to include one or more of a plurality of non-discretionary spend items; and

20 present each of the plurality of accounts payable items that are associated with the one or more general ledger codes to a user for analysis.

18. A system for tracking spend, comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of accounts payable items, each accounts payable item being associated with one of a plurality of general ledger codes;

5 means for associating more than one of the plurality of general ledger codes with an associated one of a plurality of purchasing categories;

means for identifying at least one of the plurality of general ledger codes which does not include an associated one of the plurality of purchasing categories;

10 means for displaying unallocated spend items associated with the at least one of the general ledger codes to a user; and

15 means for receiving, from the user, information regarding a proper correlation of the spend items within the plurality of purchasing categories.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the purchasing categories comprise suppliers associated with the spend items, and further comprising:

20 means for receiving, from the user, an identification of additional suppliers previously not identified with the accounts payable items; and

25 means for associating each of the additional suppliers with at least one of the spend items.

20. The system of Claim 19, wherein comprising:

30 means for identifying one or more general ledger codes which are likely to include one or more of a plurality of non-discretionary spend items; and

means for presenting each of the plurality of accounts payable items that are associated with the one or more general ledger codes to a user for analysis.